

REMARKS

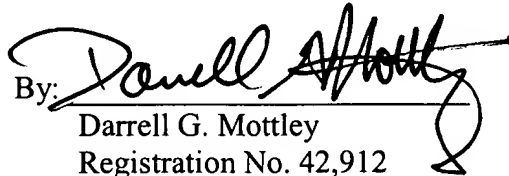
The Office Action of January 30, 2003 has been reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Applicants note with appreciation the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter. In particular, claims 1-15 have been allowed and claims 20-27 are allowed, if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-15 and 20-28 are pending. Claims 16-19 have been canceled without disclaimer. Applicants request allowance of the application in that the application stands with allowed claims. No new matter has been added.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action stated the claims 20-27 were objected to and allowable if rewritten to incorporate the features of their ultimate base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 20 has been rewritten to an independent form to include the limitations of base claim 16. Claims 21-27 are dependent upon allowed claim 20. Claim 28 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 20.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully urged to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed number. The Commissioner is authorized to charge additional fees for additional independent claims and dependent claims to our Deposit Account No. 19-0733. If any additional fees are required or if an overpayment has been made the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 30, 2003

By: 
Darrell G. Mottley
Registration No. 42,912

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
1001 G Street, N.W., 11th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
202-824-3000